Boston, Feb. 7. 1858.

Dear Friend Webb.

In my last to you – 2 weeks since – I closed with saying that I was at a loss how to explain the amt. of the balance in my hands, of money belonging to you, after paying off all liabilities. But ~~your~~ the letter was scarcely out of my reach, when I perceived the explanation; it is found in the bal'ce from year previous which you had charged yourself with, viz^t. £1. 6. 8, or $6.40 of our money, at the rate of $4.80 to the pound stg. – What is commercially called 'exchange' between our country & yours was pretty well up when I sold your draft, and I got "9½ p.ct." for it, or at a total of $161.84, which is something over $4.86 to the pound. I have paid all accounts at the rate of $4.80 to the pound, so that you shall have all the benefit accruing from the increased value of your remittance at this juncture. – I will send with this an exact acc^t. of matters between us, and will hold the balance in my hands subject to your order.

On paying the money due to the Standard, Gay wrote me back – "Miss Orr, of Belfast, to whom you credit $6. [£1.5.0.] for 2 copies of the Standard to May, 1858, is not on our books at all." He suggested that it was an error, for "Liberator". But no; your account said Standard distinctly, and the name was Orr, & nothing else that we could make – indeed it was plain enough for any one to read. – There is no such name on the Liberator books. The only Belfast names on the "Standard" books, (as Gay informs me,) are – Miss Ireland, Maria Webb, James Standfield, Miss Hincks, Thomas Blain.

To which, if to either, of these the £1.5.0 is to be credited, of course I cannot tell; and I beg you to enlighten me, at your early convenience.

In my last, I mentioned that the usual package of the "Advocate" (January No.) did not come to Mr. Wallcut, and I asked you to send me 4 numbers, if you had them to spare, as I had furnished him all my numbers. This note will, I suppose, reach you too late to prevent your mailing the said extra numbers; of which I have now no need, as Mr. W.'s package came to hand during the last week.

I told you, I think, that Gay had resigned the editorship of Standard. He says the support is quite inadequate - and that he has lost other property which gave him a partial means of living, & felt obliged to look about for other business, - had found an opportunity which he deemed he had no right to neglect, and therefore resigned. He will leave the "Standard" the first of March. The Exec. Com. passed resolutions strongly expressing their sense of the faithful & judicious manner in which he had conducted the Standard for fourteen years. He has declared himself highly delighted and honored with the terms of the vote, and especially with a letter which Mr. Garrison wrote to him on the occasion.

We of course have been anxiously considering the question of the best successor; strongly desiring & hoping to retain O. Johnson's connexion with the paper, if it may be done without too great an expense, while fully aware that O.J. lacks some important qualifications for the post of Editor-in-chief. A unanimous vote of the Ex. Com. invited Mrs. Chapman to take the place, - one of the Committee (Mr. Hovey) absent

an additional donation of $500., towards her first year's salary, if she would accept the place. - It was hoped that she would go to New York, to reside. But she replied that she could not take the place - was sure she was not the person, - but pledged all her abilities & posibilities, whatever they were, to the aid of the person who should be placed in charge of the Standard. - Tomorrow, our Ex. Com^tee meet, & will probably put the paper in O. Johnson's hands, for the present. [Pray let me say that I am writing to you now quite in confidence, - even as to one wholly in our counsels. I say this, because O. J. was lately hurt at his dismissal from the office of editor, and none, I hear, wonders that he is not immediately installed editor-in-chief, as Gay has resigned. - In the event of your writing to N. Yk., I should rather not have my opinions &c. here, as to O. J.'s qualifications, repeated.]

Our Governmental & National affairs really do appear to be approaching a crisis. And Kansas is to be thanked for it, if so it be. That infamous document called the "Lecompton Constitution", conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity, so abhorrent to the great body of the people of Kansas, that even Stephen A. Douglas himself, neither having nor pretending to have conscientious scruples on moral grounds about anything, cannot away with it, but has come out its vehement opposer, has been sent to the President, and by him sent in to Congress, with a Message, approving it & strongly urging their acceptance of it as the Constitution under which Kansas shall be admitted to the Union. The Message is the most extraordinary document

unaquiable. Its falsehoods, and its suppressions of well-known and perfectly-proven facts, are most glaring. The tone in which it speaks of the people of Kansas, & what it pleases to term their rebellion, is equal to anything that our fathers had to complain of in the ministers of George the Third, and its whole language is that of one having a divine right to govern, speaking of people who were born to be his subjects, & whose whole duty consisted in submission the power that ruled over them, no matter how that power had seated itself in the throne. The audacity with which he argues the right the ~~pretended~~ Lecompton ~~Convention~~, elected by the fraudulent votes of the people of another State, to impose a Constitution upon the people of Kansas, without asking them whether they agree or disagree this is only equalled by the monstrous sophistry he uses. And the infatuation which leads him to maintain that peace will follow the acceptance of this vile, pro-slavery, & despotic instrument; that agitation all over the Union will subside in consequence, that the people of Kansas will then be able without further interference to change this said Lecompton Constitution if they don't like it, and that the United States troops will then be withdrawn from the soil of Kansas, would constrain us to believe that he had fallen in dotage; did we not know that it is no infatuation, but a base profligate, & high-handed attempt, by means of the grossest falsehoods and assumptions, to ~~imitate~~ crush the people of a free State, to insult and brow-beat the friends of Freedom everywhere and to compel Congress by menaces, where bribes are not sufficient, to consent to ratify and complete the stupendous fraud and crime.

MS, B.L. 6 v.6. p. 92